

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, and 40. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into an inner cavity of a microkeratome, the inner cavity having a reference surface, the microkeratome having a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that has a reference surface and is loaded into the microkeratome inner cavity so that said reference surface is in contact with the inner cavity reference surface, said blade holder reference surface is ~~attached to~~ pressed into and in contact with said rear edge of said blade to attach said blade holder to said blade, said blade holder having a slot that receives the microkeratome pin.

2. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade has a notch at said rear edge.

3. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said rear edge has a plurality of fingers.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

6. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder has a clip that is attached to said blade.

7. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade can pivot relative to said blade holder.

8. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

9. (Previously Presented) A blade assembly that can be assembled into an inner cavity of a microkeratome, the inner cavity having a reference surface, the microkeratome having a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that has coupling means for coupling said rear edge of said blade to said blade holder, said blade holder having a slot that receives the microkeratome pin.

10. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade has a notch at each side edge.

11. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said rear edge has a plurality of fingers.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

14. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder has an outer groove.

15. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

16 – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:

~~a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge, said rear edge having a plurality of fingers; and,~~

~~a blade holder that has a plurality of slots; and, that receive said fingers of said blade.~~

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge, said rear edge having a plurality of fingers that are pressed into said blade holder slots to secure said blade holder to said blade.

34. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim ~~16~~33, wherein blade has a notch at each side edge.

35. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim ~~16~~33, wherein said blade holder is attached to an edge of said fingers.

36. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim ~~16~~33, wherein said blade holder is attached to said blade by a frictional fit.

37. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim ~~16~~33, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

38. (Previously Presented) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge, each side edge having a notch; and,

a blade holder that has a pair of clips that are attached to said blade at said blade notches.

39. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim ~~21~~38, wherein blade holder can move relative to said blade.

40. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim ~~21~~38, wherein said blade holder is attached to said blade by a frictional fit.